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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly Recognizes Central Coast Entrepreneurial Leaders

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business recently recognized 12 Central Coast entrepreneurs for their exceptional business and community accomplishments at the first annual Cal Poly Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards.

The awards were launched with 65 initial nominees, resulting in 37 finalists representing 31 companies.

At an evening reception May 9 at The Fairways at Dairy Creek, Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business presented Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards in 10 categories, with 12 recipients overall. Central Coast entrepreneurs receiving awards were:

Hospitality: Tunny Ortali and Bruce Breault (McLintocks)

Manufacturing: Noel Lee (Monster Cable)

Entertainment: Lorne Lanning (Oddworld Inhabitants)

Communications: Mark Potratz (The Parable Group)

Retail: Mike Rowley (Straight Down)

Construction: Brett Whitaker (Whitaker Contractors)

Services: Nanci Bell (Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes)

Financial Services: Anita Robinson (Mission Community Bank)

Socially Responsible Entrepreneur: Lauren Brown (Promega Biosciences)

Emerging Entrepreneur (under 25): Brandi Butler and Jason Newton (Anime Express)

Award recipients also received certificates of recognition from State Senator Bruce McPherson and Assemblyman Abel Maldonado.

The ceremony included a presentation of a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Lois Capps honoring the Orfalea College of Business for its "outstanding and invaluable service to the community" in creating the awards.

Cal Poly students researched local entrepreneurs and organized the awards in a "Profiles in Entrepreneurship" course taught by Professor William Pendergast. Award sponsors included: Associated Students, Inc.; Barbich, Longcrier, Hooper & King; the Cal Poly Entrepreneurship Club; Criterion Networks; Draper, Fisher, Jurvetson; Justin Vineyards and Winery; Alex Madonna; the Orfalea College of Business; and Sinsheimer, Schiebelhut & Baggett.

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